

JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

**CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

**I. (a) PLAINTIFFS**

SKAT

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff København, Denmark  
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

See attachment.

**DEFENDANTS**

NEWSONG FELLOWSHIP CHURCH 401K PLAN and ALEXANDER  
JAMIE MITCHELL III

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Lancaster, PA  
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF  
THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

**II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- ☐ 3 Federal Question  
(U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☒ 4 Diversity  
(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

**III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES** (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- |   | PTF                                   | DEF                                   |   | PTF                                   | DEF                                   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Citizen of This State                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 1            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State     | <input type="checkbox"/> 4            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State                | <input type="checkbox"/> 2            | <input type="checkbox"/> 2            | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5            | <input type="checkbox"/> 5            |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3            | Foreign Nation  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6            |

**IV. NATURE OF SUIT** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Tort Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability <b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other <b>LABOR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act <b>IMMIGRATION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 <b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) <b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
<b>REAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<b>PRISONER PETITIONS</b> <b>Habeas Corpus:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <b>Other:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement			

**V. ORIGIN** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding
- ☐ 2 Removed from State Court
- ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
- ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened
- ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify)
- ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer
- ☐ 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

**VI. CAUSE OF ACTION**

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):  
Common law claims.

Brief description of cause:

This case involves a fraudulent tax refund scheme to deceive Plaintiff into paying allegedly withheld dividend tax.

**VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:**

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

**DEMANDS**

All Damages

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes ☐ No

**VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY**

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

06/12/2018

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

Counsel for Plaintiff SKAT (Customs and Tax Administration of the Kingdom of Denmark):

William R. Maguire, Esquire  
Marc A. Weinstein, Esquire  
Sarah L. Cave, Esquire  
John T. McGoey, Esquire  
HUGHES HUBBARD & REED LLP  
One Battery Park Plaza  
New York, New York 10004-1482  
(212) 837-6000 (t)  
(212) 422-4726 (f)  
Bill.maguire@hugheshubbard.com  
Marc.weinstein@hugheshubbard.com  
Sarah.cave@hugheshubbard.com  
John.mcgoey@hugheshubbard.com

Patricia M. Hamill, Esquire  
Brittany J. Gigliotti, Esquire  
CONRAD O'BRIEN PC  
1500 Market Street, Centre Square  
West Tower, Suite 3900  
Philadelphia, PA 19102-2100  
Phone: (215) 864-9600  
Fax: (215) 864-9620  
phamill@conradobrien.com  
bgigliotti@conradobrien.com

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM**

SKAT	:	CIVIL ACTION
	:	
v.	:	
NEWSONG FELLOWSHIP CHURCH	:	
401K PLAN and ALEXANDER JAMIE	:	NO.
MITCHELL III		

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

**SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:**

- (a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255. ( )
- (b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits. ( )
- (c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. ( )
- (d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos. ( )
- (e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.) (x)
- (f) Standard Management – Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks. ( )

06/12/2018

**Date**

(215) 864-8071

**Telephone****Attorney-at-law**

(215) 864-0793

**FAX Number**

Plaintiff

**Attorney for**

phamill@conradobrien.com

**E-Mail Address**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

**DESIGNATION FORM**

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Plaintiff: SKAT: Østbanegade 123, 2200 København Ø, Denmark

Address of Defendant: Newsong Fellowship Church 401K Plan: 1102 Millersville Pike, Lancaster, PA 17603, USA / Alexander Jamie Mitchell III: 21547 Baccarat Ln. Unit 101, Estero, FL 33928, USA

Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: This action involves a fraudulent tax refund scheme that defendants employed while physically located in this district.

**RELATED CASE, IF ANY:**

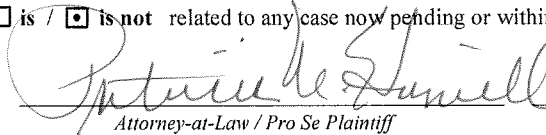
Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Terminated: \_\_\_\_\_

Civil cases are deemed related when **Yes** is answered to any of the following questions:

- |  |                              |  |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?            | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual?  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case ☐ is / ☒ is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

DATE: 06/12/2018

  
Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff

48416

Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)

**CIVIL: (Place a ✓ in one category only)**

**A. Federal Question Cases:**

- ☐ 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts
- ☐ 2. FELA
- ☐ 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury
- ☐ 4. Antitrust
- ☐ 5. Patent
- ☐ 6. Labor-Management Relations
- ☐ 7. Civil Rights
- ☐ 8. Habeas Corpus
- ☐ 9. Securities Act(s) Cases
- ☐ 10. Social Security Review Cases
- ☐ 11. All other Federal Question Cases

(Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:**

- ☐ 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
- ☐ 2. Airplane Personal Injury
- ☐ 3. Assault, Defamation
- ☐ 4. Marine Personal Injury
- ☐ 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
- ☐ 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 7. Products Liability
- ☐ 8. Products Liability – Asbestos
- ☒ 9. All other Diversity Cases

(Please specify): Fraud and other common law actions

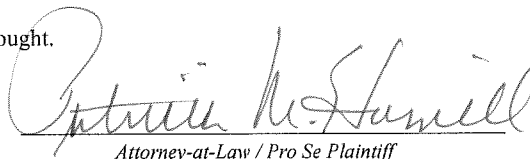
**ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION**

(The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.)

I, Patricia M. Hamill, counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify:

- ☒ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:
- ☐ Relief other than monetary damages is sought.

DATE: 06/12/2018

  
Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff

48416

Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)

NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

**DESIGNATION FORM**

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Plaintiff: SKAT: Østbanegade 123, 2200 København Ø, Denmark

Address of Defendant: Newsong Fellowship Church 401K Plan: 1102 Millersville Pike, Lancaster, PA 17603, USA / Alexander Jamie Mitchell III: 21547 Baccarat Ln. Unit 101, Estero, FL 33928, USA

Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: This action involves a fraudulent tax refund scheme that defendants employed while physically located in this district.

**RELATED CASE, IF ANY:**

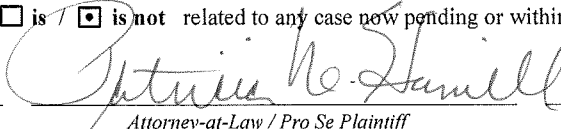
Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Terminated: \_\_\_\_\_

Civil cases are deemed related when **Yes** is answered to any of the following questions:

- |  |                              |  |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?            | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual?  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case ☐ is / ☒ is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

DATE: 06/12/2018

  
Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff

48416

Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)

**CIVIL: (Place a ✓ in one category only)**

**A. Federal Question Cases:**

- ☐ 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts
  - ☐ 2. FELA
  - ☐ 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury
  - ☐ 4. Antitrust
  - ☐ 5. Patent
  - ☐ 6. Labor-Management Relations
  - ☐ 7. Civil Rights
  - ☐ 8. Habeas Corpus
  - ☐ 9. Securities Act(s) Cases
  - ☐ 10. Social Security Review Cases
  - ☐ 11. All other Federal Question Cases
- (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:**

- ☐ 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
  - ☐ 2. Airplane Personal Injury
  - ☐ 3. Assault, Defamation
  - ☐ 4. Marine Personal Injury
  - ☐ 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
  - ☐ 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ 7. Products Liability
  - ☐ 8. Products Liability – Asbestos
  - ☒ 9. All other Diversity Cases
- (Please specify): Fraud and other common law actions

**ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION**

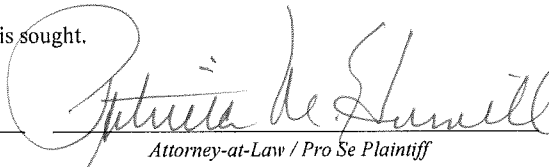
(The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.)

I, Patricia M. Hamill, counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify:

☒ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:

☐ Relief other than monetary damages is sought.

DATE: 06/12/2018

  
Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff

48416

Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)

NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

SKAT,

Plaintiff,

vs.

NEWSONG FELLOWSHIP CHURCH  
401K PLAN & ALEXANDER JAMIE  
MITCHELL III,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. \_\_\_\_\_

Honorable \_\_\_\_\_

June 12, 2018

**COMPLAINT**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

Plaintiff SKAT, which is the Customs and Tax Administration of the Kingdom of Denmark, by its attorneys Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP, alleges against Newsong Fellowship Church 401K Plan (“**Newsong Fellowship**”) and Alexander Jamie Mitchell III (“**Mitchell**”) as follows:

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Plaintiff SKAT is the agency of the government of Denmark charged with the assessment and collection of Danish taxes.

2. This case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme to deceive SKAT into paying out over 12.7 billion Danish Kroner (“**DKK**”), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1 billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax.

3. The essence of the fraudulent scheme is that each of over 300 claimants pretended to own shares in Danish companies listed on the OMX Copenhagen 20 Index, the 20 most-traded stocks in Denmark. The Danish companies are required to withhold 27% tax on dividends they



pay to shareholders. Under certain double taxation treaties between Denmark and other countries, including the United States, this tax is reimbursable to non-Danish shareholders.

4. The claimants, acting through their agents and representatives, applied to SKAT claiming repayments of tax withheld on dividends that they purported to have earned on shares of Danish companies. These applications were fraudulent because the claimants did not own the shares that they claimed to own, they did not earn the dividends they claimed to have earned, and they were not entitled to the tax refunds they claimed.

5. The claimants effectuated the scheme by appointing agents to apply to SKAT for refunds in respect of shares in Danish companies that they did not own. The agents submitted the fraudulent applications at the direction of, and on behalf of, the claimants, with false documentation representing that the claimants owned substantial shares in Danish companies, had earned substantial dividends for which tax had been withheld, and other documentation representing that the claimants were entitled to a tax refund. The agents obtained over \$2.1 billion in refunds from SKAT, and distributed the proceeds of the scheme to the claimants and other participants in the fraud. During the period of 2012 to 2015, SKAT received fraudulent requests for tax refunds from several agents on behalf of 277 pension plans in the United States, including Defendant Newsong Fellowship, as well as entities in the United Kingdom, Canada, Malaysia, and Luxembourg.

6. On June 15, 2015, SKAT received information indicating that certain claimants may have submitted fraudulent tax refund claims based on the double taxation treaty between Denmark and Malaysia. Based on this information, SKAT undertook an investigation and subsequently discovered that the claimants had submitted requests for tax refunds by misrepresenting that they owned shares in Danish companies, that they had earned substantial

dividend income on their shares, and that they were entitled to refunds of tax withheld in respect of those dividends. Through its investigation, SKAT discovered that these representations were false: the claimants did not own the shares and they were not entitled to a refund of withholding tax.

7. As a result of these false claims, the claimants and their agents received cash payments of what were supposed to be “refunds” of tax to which they were not entitled. During the course of its investigation, SKAT also learned that the scheme involved entities and individuals not just in Malaysia, but also in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Luxembourg.

8. On or about August 24, 2015, SKAT stopped paying all claims for refunds of dividend withholding tax while it investigated the fraudulent scheme. At the same time, SKAT reported the alleged fraud to the Danish Public Prosecutor for Serious Economic and International Crime (“SØIK”). The fraudulent scheme is currently under investigation by law enforcement authorities in Denmark, the United Kingdom, Germany, and other jurisdictions. At least three individuals have been criminally charged by SØIK.

9. The claimants obtained substantial assistance in the fraudulent scheme from several other entities and individuals, including:

a. The Authorized Representatives of the claimants, such as Defendant Mitchell, who, among other things, executed at the direction of, and on behalf of, the claimants documents authorizing the Payment Agents to submit the claimants’ tax refund claims and to receive from SKAT payments in respect of those claims;

b. The non-party Payment Agents, which are companies that submitted fraudulent tax refund claims to SKAT at the direction of, and on behalf of, the claimants; and



c. The non-party Broker-Custodians, which are financial institutions that provided statements falsely representing that the claimants owned shares in Danish companies and had earned dividends on those shares.

10. The Defendants did know or should have known that these arrangements would cause SKAT to make payments to which the Defendants were not entitled.

11. SKAT made all the payments to the claimants' Payment Agents, which, on information and belief, distributed the proceeds to other participants in the fraud, including the claimants and the Authorized Representatives.

12. As a result of the overall fraudulent scheme, SKAT paid baseless withholding tax refund claims of approximately \$2.1 billion (US).

13. As a result of the fraudulent claims by the Defendants in this action, SKAT paid baseless withholding tax refund claims and was damaged in the amount of at least \$664,000 (US)<sup>1</sup>, plus interest.

## **II. JURISDICTION & VENUE**

14. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(4), this Court has jurisdiction over all claims because the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and is between an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state and citizens of a state or of different states.

15. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this District. In the alternative, venue is proper because at least one of the Defendants is subject to the jurisdiction of this Court.

---

1. This amount is the result of a conversion from DKK to U.S. Dollars performed on June 1, 2018, utilizing a conversion rate of 1 U.S. Dollar to 6.3861 DKK.

### **III. PARTIES**

16. Plaintiff SKAT is the Danish national agency charged with assessing and collecting taxes. SKAT is located at Østbanegade 123, 2200 København Ø, Denmark. During the period material to the events described in this Complaint, SKAT used a mailing address of Skattecenter Høje-Taastrup, Postboks 60, DK-2630 Taastrup, Denmark.

17. Defendant Newsong Fellowship is a pension plan, which, in its requests to SKAT for tax refunds, listed its address as 1102 Millersville Pike, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603, USA. On information and belief, each member of Defendant Newsong Fellowship is a citizen of a state of the United States. At all times material to the allegations in this Complaint, Defendant Newsong Fellowship purported to be a trust forming part of a pension, profit sharing, or stock bonus plan qualified under section 401(a) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, and resident of the United States of America for purposes of U.S. taxation.

18. Defendant Mitchell, on information and belief, is a citizen of a state of the United States. At all times material to the allegations in this Complaint, Defendant Mitchell served as the Authorized Representative for Defendant Newsong Fellowship.

### **IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

#### **A. The Danish Withholding Tax System**

19. Withholding tax is a common fiscal device by which taxes are deducted at the source by a payer of income, and are reported to the relevant tax authority. In this case, the relevant tax authority is SKAT.

20. Under the Danish Withholding Tax Act section 65, Danish companies are required to withhold 27% of the dividend distributed as to their shares.

21. Foreign shareholders may be entitled to a refund if the withheld tax exceeds the amount of tax owed according to a double taxation treaty between Denmark and the shareholder's country of residence.

22. A double taxation treaty between Denmark and the United States<sup>2</sup> allows for refund of tax withheld on dividends paid by Danish companies to U.S. pension plans, which are exempt from taxation.

23. SKAT paid claims for refunds of dividend withholding tax made by claimants who represented that they had shareholdings in Danish companies and that they had received dividends on those shareholdings net of the tax. The claimants submitted refund claims seeking the full 27% withholding tax that had allegedly been withheld from distributions on shares that the claimants purported to own.

24. It was SKAT's normal practice to accept claims from designated payment agents and to transmit refunds to claimants through their designated payment agents.

**B. The Fraudulent Scheme**

25. As a result of its investigation, SKAT has now determined that, during the period 2012 through 2015, it received fraudulent dividend withholding tax refund claims as part of a scheme involving (i) a pension plan or other claimant, (ii) an Authorized Representative, (iii) a Payment Agent, and (iv) a Broker-Custodian. The respective roles of each of these participants are described in further detail in paragraphs 32 through 49 below.

---

2. Convention and Protocol between the United States and Denmark for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, U.S.-Den., art. 10, ¶ 2(c), May 6, 1948, S. Treaty Doc. No. 106-12 (effective date Jan. 1, 2001).

**1. The Fraudulent Refund Claims Process**

26. The claimants submitted fraudulent claims to SKAT through Payment Agents, including non-party Goal TaxBack Limited (“**Goal**”), each of which submitted claims by mail or by email transmissions.

27. The claimants received payments with respect to their refund claims from their designated Payment Agents, to which SKAT transmitted payment by bank transfer.

28. Each of the claimants provided the following documentation to SKAT through their designated agents:

a. a short cover letter, printed on a Payment Agent’s letterhead and addressed to SKAT in Taastrup, Denmark;

b. a SKAT “Claim to Relief from Danish Dividend Tax” form (the “**Claim Form**”), which set out:

i. the identity of the claimant representing that it owned the relevant shares and had received dividends net of withholding tax;

ii. the amount of the tax refund claim;

iii. a certification that the claimant was covered by the relevant double taxation treaty between Denmark and the country in which the claimant was resident; and

iv. the bank account to which SKAT should pay the claim;

c. a “credit advice” note purporting to describe the shareholding (or security) and the amount of dividend tax withheld;

d. a signed Power of Attorney, by which the claimant’s Authorized Representative appointed a Payment Agent to act on behalf of the stated claimant; and

e. in respect of United States-based pension plans, a statement from the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”), certifying that each pension plan was (I) a trust forming part of a pension, profit sharing, or stock bonus plan qualified under section 401(a) of the United States Internal Revenue Code (the “Code”), (II) exempt from U.S. taxation under section 501(a) of the Code, and (III) resident in the United States for purposes of United States taxation.

29. The fraudulent claims alleged shareholdings in some of the largest Danish listed companies belonging to the OMX Copenhagen 20 Index in Denmark.

30. It was SKAT’s practice to pay claims that included the required supporting documentation.

31. SKAT made payments by bank transfer to the Payment Agents for the benefit of the claimants.

## **2. The Role of the Claimants**

32. Out of the over 300 claimants that SKAT has, to date, determined were participants in the fraudulent scheme, 277 were in the United States.

33. Each of the claimants, including Defendant Newsong Fellowship, made withholding tax refund claims through their Payment Agents, as described in paragraph 28, above.

34. As part of the fraudulent claims, each of the Authorized Representatives confirmed to SKAT that they were agents of the claimants and were authorized to act on behalf of the claimants with respect to the dividend withholding tax refund claims. Defendant Newsong Fellowship represented that Defendant Mitchell was its Authorized Representative and agent who had authority to act on its behalf with respect to Defendant Newsong Fellowship’s claims.

35. As part of their fraudulent claims, each of the claimants designated one of the Payment Agents as its agent to act on behalf of that claimant with respect to the claim. Defendant

Newsong Fellowship represented that non-party Goal was its agent and had authority to act on its behalf with respect to its claims.

36. Each of the claimants represented to SKAT that they held shares in, and received dividends net of withholding tax from, large Danish listed companies. Defendant Newsong Fellowship made four (4) separate withholding tax refund claims, and represented that it was entitled to refunds totaling at least \$664,000 (US). These refund claims were submitted to SKAT on the following dates: March 26, 2014; April 4, 2014; April 16, 2014; and October 6, 2014.

37. In fact, Defendant Newsong Fellowship did not hold the shares it represented to SKAT that it owned, and had no dividend tax withheld.

38. Based on the false refund claims listed in paragraph 36, SKAT made payments to Defendant Newsong Fellowship on the following dates: April 23, 2014; April 24, 2014; May 6, 2014; and October 31, 2014.

### **3. The Role of the Claimants' Authorized Representatives**

39. Each Authorized Representative executed at the direction of, and on behalf of, the claimant for which he or she was the Authorized Representative a form entitled "Power of Attorney." By the Power of Attorney, the claimant, acting through its respective Authorized Representative, granted the Payment Agent authority to act on behalf of the claimant.

40. Defendant Mitchell executed at the direction of, and on behalf of, Defendant Newsong Fellowship a "Power of Attorney" dated February 26, 2014, that granted to Payment Agent Goal authority "to be the attorney of [Newsong Fellowship] and in [Newsong Fellowship's] name and otherwise on [Newsong Fellowship's] behalf and as [Newsong Fellowship's] act and deed to sign, seal, execute, deliver, perfect and do all deeds, instruments, acts and things which may be required (or which [Goal] shall consider requisite) for or in connection with the provision of any tax services provided to [Newsong Fellowship] from time to time, including the reclaiming



from any taxation authority in any jurisdiction (as appropriate) amounts in respect of payments made to [Newsong Fellowship] or through [Goal] on behalf of [Newsong Fellowship].” Defendant Mitchell described himself as the “Trustee” of Defendant Newsong Fellowship.

**4. The Role of the Payment Agents**

41. The Payment Agents submitted the fraudulent withholding tax refund claims at the direction of the claimants and Authorized Representatives and on behalf of the claimants.

42. By means of the Power of Attorney described in paragraphs 39-40 above, each claimant authorized its respective Payment Agent to act on behalf of and subject to control of the claimant with respect to submitting the withholding tax refund claims.

43. With each claim, the Payment Agents submitted substantially similar cover letters attaching the documentation described in paragraph 28 above.

44. In connection with each Claim Form, the Payment Agent:

- a. provided its email address as the contact address for the claimant on whose behalf it was acting;
- b. signed and stamped the form, and stated it was applying on behalf of the claimant;
- c. enclosed the Power of Attorney executed by the claimant’s Authorized Representative; and
- d. requested that SKAT pay the claim to its bank account.

45. As per the directions included in the submission to SKAT, the Payment Agents received payment of the refunds from SKAT on behalf of the claimants. On information and belief, the Payment Agents subsequently distributed the proceeds to the claimants and other participants in the fraud, including the Authorized Representatives, and the Payment Agents themselves.

**5. The Role of the Broker-Custodians**

46. Each entity claiming a withholding tax refund submitted to SKAT a “credit advice,” “income advice,” “tax voucher” or similar document from a Broker-Custodian that purported to show the claimant’s ownership of shares in Danish companies listed on the OMX Copenhagen 20 Index.

47. By way of example, with respect to Defendant Newsong Fellowship, one example of a “tax voucher”:

- a. is made out by ED & F Man Capital Markets Limited;
- b. is signed by Christina MacKinnon as Head of Securities Operations;
- c. purports to certify Defendant Newsong Fellowship’s ownership of 225,000 shares in Tryg A/S (a genuine company), and whose shares were (and are) publicly traded on the OMX Copenhagen 20 Index in Denmark; and
- d. states an International Securities Identification Number (“**ISIN**”) for Tryg A/S shares as “DK0060013274”. An ISIN is a twelve-character alpha-numeric code that uniquely identifies securities for trading and settlement purposes.

48. Defendant Newsong Fellowship never owned the shares described above, never received any dividend from Danish companies in which it was a purported shareholder and was not entitled to claim a refund of dividend withholding tax.

49. In the course of its investigation, in or around August 2015, SKAT concluded that many of the withholding tax refund claims that had been made in the preceding years, including claims by Defendant Newsong Fellowship, were fraudulent and SKAT suspended further payments.

**CAUSES OF ACTION**

**COUNT I**

**(Fraud – Against Both Defendants)**

50. SKAT repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 through 49 above as if fully set forth herein.

51. Defendants intentionally, knowingly and/or recklessly made or caused to be made the material, false and fraudulent statements described in paragraphs 28-29, 36 and 46 through 48 to support claims for withholding tax refund payments.

52. Defendants intentionally, knowingly, and/or recklessly made or caused to be made these false and fraudulent statements to induce SKAT to pay the claims.

53. In reliance on the false and fraudulent misrepresentations, SKAT paid baseless withholding tax refund claims of at least \$664,000 (US) and thereby suffered damages of that amount, plus interest.

54. Defendants' extensive fraudulent conduct demonstrates a high degree of moral turpitude and wanton dishonesty, entitling SKAT to punitive damages.

**COUNT II**

**(Aiding and Abetting Fraud – Against Both Defendants)**

55. SKAT repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 through 54 above as if fully set forth herein.

56. As alleged above, a massive fraud was perpetrated on SKAT by the claimants, the Authorized Representatives, the Payment Agents, and/or other non-parties.

57. As alleged in paragraphs 25 through 48 above, the Defendants, with knowledge, participated in the massive fraud on SKAT.

58. The Defendants acted with knowledge, willful blindness, and/or recklessness in submitting claims for refunds of dividend withholding tax to SKAT with knowledge that they were not entitled to receive any refunds.

59. The Defendants intentionally furthered the fraud and substantially assisted the fraud through their conduct described in paragraphs 25 through 48 above.

60. As a direct and natural cause of the Defendants' aiding and abetting of the fraudulent scheme, SKAT has suffered substantial damages.

61. Defendants' extensive fraudulent conduct demonstrates a high degree of moral turpitude and wanton dishonesty, entitling SKAT to punitive damages.

### **COUNT III**

#### **(Payment By Mistake – Against Both Defendants)**

62. SKAT repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 through 61 above as if fully set forth herein.

63. This is a claim for monies SKAT paid to the Defendants because of mistaken understandings of fact.

64. SKAT paid the Defendants the amounts claimed as withholding tax refunds with the mistaken understanding that the Defendants had submitted valid claims with valid supporting documentation.

65. SKAT's mistaken belief was material to its decision to pay the claims.

66. SKAT suffered a loss as a result of its mistaken payments.

67. The Defendants are liable to account and pay to SKAT the payments that SKAT made in error to the Defendants, plus interest.

**COUNT IV**

**(Unjust Enrichment – Against Both Defendants)**

68. SKAT repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 through 67 above as if fully set forth herein.

69. This is a claim by SKAT for recovery of monies by which the Defendants were unjustly enriched.

70. By obtaining proceeds from withholding tax refund claims, directly or indirectly, to which they were not entitled, the Defendants were unjustly enriched.

71. SKAT suffered a loss because of the Defendants' unjust enrichment.

72. The Defendants are liable to account and pay to SKAT the amount of dividend withholding tax refund payments they received from SKAT to which they were not entitled, plus interest.

**COUNT V**

**(Money Had & Received – Against Both Defendants)**

73. SKAT repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 through 72 above as if fully set forth herein.

74. As a result of their fraudulent scheme, Defendants received proceeds from withholding tax refunds to which they were not entitled.

75. It is against equity and good conscience to permit Defendants to keep these monies, and they should account for and pay to SKAT the amount of withholding tax refund payments they received to which they were not entitled, plus interest.

**COUNT VI**

**(Negligent Misrepresentation – Against Both Defendants)**

76. SKAT repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 through 75 above as if fully set forth herein.

77. Defendants had a duty, as a result of their submission of claims for withholding tax refund payments, to provide truthful, accurate, and complete information to SKAT in all material respects concerning their applications for such payments.

78. Defendants made material misstatements described in paragraphs 28-29, 36 and 46 through 48 above in connection with every withholding tax refund claim submitted on behalf of Defendant Newsong Fellowship to SKAT. Defendants knew, or should have known, that these statements were inaccurate.

79. Defendants' material misstatements were intended to induce SKAT to rely upon them, and Defendants expected SKAT to rely upon them.

80. SKAT reasonably relied on the misstatements while reviewing Defendants' claims, and as a direct and proximate result incurred damages of at least \$664,000 (US), plus interest.

**REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff SKAT requests that this Court enter judgment in its favor against Defendants as follows:

1. For Counts I, II and VI, for fraud, aiding and abetting fraud, and negligent misrepresentation, the damages sustained by SKAT as a result of the Defendants' wrongful acts, plus pre-judgment interest, fees, costs and expenses.



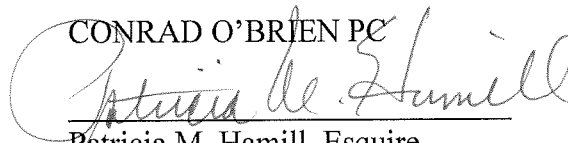
2. For Counts III, IV, and V, for payment by mistake, unjust enrichment, and money had and received, the damages sustained or the amounts by which the Defendants were paid by mistake or unjustly enriched, or by which the Defendants received money to which they were not entitled, plus pre-judgment interest, fees, costs and expenses.
3. For Counts I and II, punitive damages.
4. The costs of this action.
5. All other and further relief that is just and proper.

**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff SKAT demands a jury trial on all issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted,

CONRAD O'BRIEN PC



Patricia M. Hamill, Esquire  
Brittany J. Gigliotti, Esquire  
1500 Market Street, Centre Square  
West Tower, Suite 3900  
Philadelphia, PA 19102-2100  
Phone: (215) 864-9600  
Fax: (215) 864-9620

HUGHES HUBBARD & REED LLP

William R. Maguire, Esquire (*pro hac vice* motion forthcoming)  
Marc A. Weinstein, Esquire (*pro hac vice* motion forthcoming)  
Sarah L. Cave, Esquire (*pro hac vice* motion forthcoming)  
John T. McGoe, Esquire (*pro hac vice* motion forthcoming)  
One Battery Park Plaza  
New York, New York 10004-1482  
(212) 837-6000 (t)  
(212) 422-4726 (f)  
Bill.maguire@hugheshubbard.com

Marc.weinstein@hugheshubbard.com  
Sarah.cave@hugheshubbard.com  
John.mcgoey@hugheshubbard.com

Counsel for Plaintiff SKAT (Customs and Tax Administration  
of the Kingdom of Denmark)